

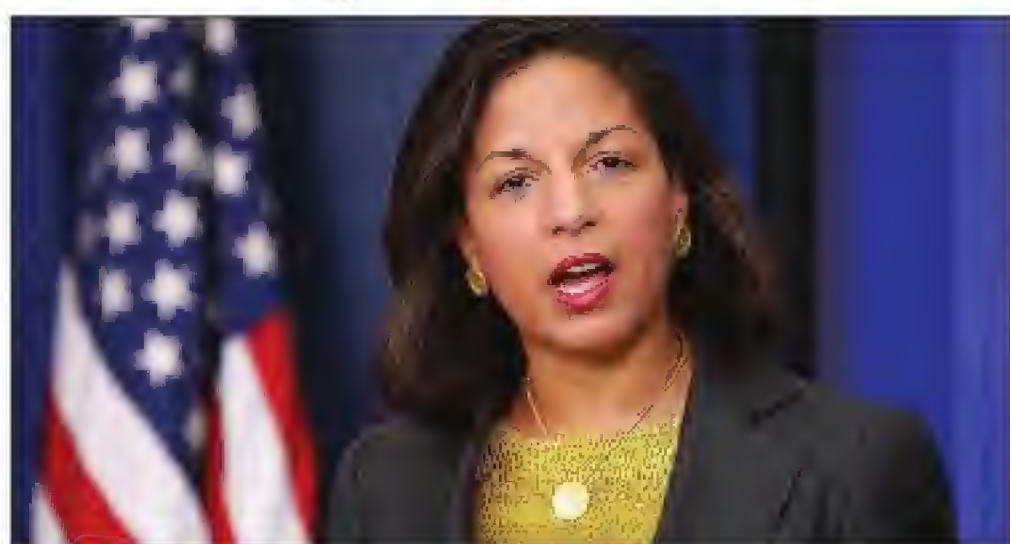


THE MORNING NEWS

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Susan Rice to be new Obama national security advisor



WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama on Wednesday lauded his next national security advisor Susan Rice as an "exemplary public servant," implicitly shrugging off Republican criticism of her qualifications.

Rice, currently ambassador to the UN, would take over from Tom Donilon in July, in an appointment which defies Republican claims that she misled Americans over the attack on the US mission in Benghazi.

Obama said that Rice, an "exemplary public servant," was a trusted advisor who understands that "there is no substitute for American leadership."

"She is at once passionate and pragmatic. I think everybody understands Susan is a fierce champion for justice and human dignity," said Obama.

"Put simply, Susan exemplifies the finest tradition of American diplomacy and leadership."

Obama also announced that he would nominate Irish-born genocide expert and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Samantha Power as the new US ambassador to the United Nations.

The move marks a swift turnaround in fortunes for Rice, 48, who pulled out of consideration to be Obama's second term secretary of state, a victim of the controversy over the attack on the US mission in Benghazi, Libya.

The decision fits Obama's

preference for promoting officials from within his political inner circle instead of outsiders and will place two women in top foreign policy jobs alongside Secretary of State John Kerry.

It also promotes two policy professionals who have wrestled with the question of when the United States should intervene in foreign conflicts to protect civilians, just as Obama tackles the Syria crisis.

Rice was part of the Clinton administration team that failed to respond to halt genocide in Rwanda in the 1990s.

Power won the Pulitzer Prize for her book "The Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide" which focuses on Rwanda and other mass killings, including in Cambodia and Bosnia.

Rice, who served as an assistant secretary of state for Africa in the Clinton administration, has long been one of Obama's closest foreign policy aides, dating back to his 2008 campaign.

She is known for a robust personal style and reputedly has sharp elbows, but she will derive considerable power from her status as an "Obama original."

Rice does not need to obtain Senate confirmation to serve as national security advisor, the president's closest foreign policy aide, so any residual opposition from Republicans will not be a problem.

Dutch Kingdom signs agreement with Venezuela



This past week Aruba, Curaçao, St. Maarten and Holland signed an agreement of cooperation with Venezuela. This agreement has political and economic implications.

Dutch Minister of External Affairs, Timmermans signed the agreement in Caracas together with Prime Minister Eman of Aruba and Prime Minister Hodge of Curaçao. According to Timmermans, all the 4 islands of the Kingdom are interested in establishing ties with Venezuela. We want to be the bridge between Europe and Latin America and vice versa he said. There is great potential in our social, political and economic relations, according to Timmermans.

Venezuela is the largest neighboring country to the Dutch Kingdom. There are commercial action taking place from both sides with a friendly relationship. There are over 4,500 Venezuelans currently living in Holland and some 1,500 Dutch citizens living in Venezuela.

In the agreement there is a cooperation on agriculture, water management, environment and energy. Venezuela

is requesting more know-how and technology in the area of culture, flora and the plantation of potatoes. On the other hand the Dutch company Shell has expertise in technology that the Venezuelan company PDVSA can make good use of. Venezuela has one of the largest oil reserves in the world.

Timmermans is on his way to Aruba, thereafter to visit Curaçao and Sint Maarten for a fact finding visit. As Minister of External Affairs he is responsible for the management of external affairs of the Kingdom, which includes the Dutch Caribbean islands.



A neighborhood submerged in the River Danube in Straubing, Germany, on June 5. In southern Germany, where the Danube has burst its banks, the Bavarian rural district of Deggendorf was cut off from the outside world, and 6,000 people had been evacuated. (see story on pg 6)

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With the ATEX looming, the question is asked: *Are travel agents passé?*



Carolyn Pollak-Kruel

The annual Aruba Travel Expo, or ATEX, begins tonight with a welcome reception at the Marriott Aruba Resort & Stellaris Casino, where travel agents who particularly promote the island will be welcomed for three whirlwind days of keeping up to date with everything new.

In light of the time and expense on the part of the Aruba

Tourism Authority (ATA) in training and hosting this front line in promoting Aruba's tourism product, those people working in the trenches, much like those employed in the hospitality service end, the question was asked by a local media personality: how relevant are travel agents in today's world of Internet booking and discounted travel sites? Are they not a dying breed?

Obviously, the 200 travel agents who are paying their own way to attend the ATEX 2013 would staunchly disagree. THE MORNING NEWS interviewed one of them, Carolyn Pollak-Kruel, who opened her own Ambassador Travel Agency in Alquippa, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Pittsburgh, 32 years ago. A veteran visitor to

Aruba, it has always been one of her primary destinations to promote to her clients. Their feedback has confirmed for her a faith in the island that a highly satisfied client will return to her once more for vacation arrangements.

She agrees that the Internet has becoming an increasing force, but she sees no threat with the repeat clientele and word of mouth referrals she receives from her happy customers. "I admit, I still do things the old fashioned way, but my clients respond to it warmly," she explains. "I print out itineraries, I give them detailed instructions on the little details, like what they will face at the airport for customs and immigration and getting to their resort, people often feel unsure about such things when arriving in a new place. The internet has not hurt my business for the type of clientele that I have. Detailed trips need personal attention and research, once a job is completed, that job needs to be transformed to paper for a day-by-day typed itinerary."

Carolyn also goes the extra mile and delivers a thick package of colorful brochures for her clients before they travel. "This is something they can curl up in bed with and look over, getting excited about their upcoming trip. Looking at these things on the computer just doesn't have quite the same effect. They love when I do this."

Another way she endears herself to her patrons, is by making sure a welcome basket of fruit or a bottle of wine is waiting for them in their hotel or stateroom, when they arrive at their destination or



Carolyn with favorite service staffers Pheeny and Francis

check in for a cruise. She always includes a handwritten note of thanks for their business and wishes for a good trip. "Something small and thoughtful like this immediately sets a positive mood for the entire vacation. This is what differentiates the travel agent from an impersonal arrangement through the computer; we are always thinking about even more than just our clients' satisfaction, but what we can do personally to insure the trip is the best it be. My philosophy is "give back to the client", it is in giving that we receive."

Carolyn, aside from selling Aruba as a destination, has been vacationing her annually, first with her mother for decades, now with her husband George. Surprisingly, this is her first ATEX, and she is very excited. "I finally took the training and became an ACE (Aruba Certified Expert) Agent two years ago, this prompted me being invited to the ATEX. The course was a revelation. I thought with all my time here, and getting involved with the community, I knew Aruba, but I was wrong.

Continued on pg 4

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We encourage you to spend an evening with the locals, and enjoy a taste of our culture at the Carribbian Festival. It's also a great family or group activity!

Package includes:

- Round-trip transportation from your hotel
- Entrance to the festival
- Dinner and beverages
- Entertainment – Carnival show, live music, and more
- A commemorative carnival mask

Price : \$64 per person.
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Where : Main-Street San Nicolas


When : Thursdays from 6 pm to 10 pm

Information: visit your **DE PALM TOURS** guest services desk in your hotel for more information and tickets.

The Carribbian Festival is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, Transportation and Labour. Operated by the Carribbian Foundation.



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The Department of Labor has an office in San Nicolas also



SAN NICOLAS – The Department of Labor and Research informs the Aruban workforce that their office in San Nicolas is open. All workers can go there for such matters as obtaining a workbook and intermeditation in case of a work-dispute or termination.

The Department of Labor and Research is situated at the B v/d Veen Zeppenfeldstraat 26-A, local 3, in the center of the bus station. Tel.: 584-2100; fax 584-3736.

For any information feel free to visit the office.

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Rexaruba.com organizes Zumba Challenge with proceeds going to Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds

Recently rexaruba.com held a press conference announcing their support for the Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds (KWF) by organizing a Zumba Challenge and Radiothon where all the proceeds go to the foundation.

The Zumbathon will take place Sunday June 30th on the Plaza Betico Croes from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Other organizations that helped making this grand event possible are



IBISA, all the Zumba Schools on Aruba, different companies and organizations.

The whole community is invited to come out and join this event which promises to be fun while doing something good for your health and at the same time supporting such a good cause.

We all know someone; it may be family, a friend, neighbor or acquaintance who we know is fighting the

battle with cancer.

KWF does different things to help out those with cancer such as providing wigs for those undergoing chemo or in need of a prosthesis after removing one or both breast.

Inscription to the Zumbathon is only afl. 10.

KWF is very grateful that Rexaruba is organizing this event in celebration of their first anniversary, in their honor, this way giving back to the community.

Are travel agents passé?

Continued from pg 2

They had a lot to teach me and I am very glad I did it. I owe it to my customers to explore all the possibilities, so I can fit them to the sort of place they would like, and there are many that I really didn't know that well. The fact the island is changing and upgrading in all districts is also great to see. I look forward to becoming well acquainted with these changes over the next few days."

"I have sent people to nearly every island in the Caribbean, as well has traveled to experience them myself, and Aruba has a distinct advantage in its warm, friendly people. It is a noticeable plus to the vacation. Many islands have lovely beaches and sun, but I can't think of any that have such sincerely hospitable people."

"In 32 years, I have seen a generation that is accustomed to my kind of personal service and are not Internet savvy, grow older and drop away. However, they are being replaced by another, younger generation that is quite well acquainted with the net, but they still seek the special touch only a travel agent can provide. I think my clients come to me because they want to have that face to face connection. They want to know there is a person behind all their travel arrangements, who will be there to help them if something goes awry," she concluded.

"Where I do perhaps see it prove detrimental is in how many young people think it is not a profession to pursue, I had a heck of a time to find someone to fill in for me while I would be gone on this trip. Travel agents may be a dying breed because of that, not necessarily because they are being replaced by a computer."

By Rosalie Klein

US, Venezuela seeking to mend ties

Antigua, Guatemala (AFP) - After more than two years of testy relations that began under former Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez, the United States and Venezuela on Wednesday agreed to try to mend their bitter ties.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said both countries agreed "we would like our countries to find a new way forward, establish a more positive relationship."

He was speaking after talks with his Venezuelan counterpart Elias Jaua on the sidelines of an Organization of American States meeting

in Guatemala.

Caracas and Washington have been operating embassies in each other's country without an ambassador since a diplomatic spat in 2010.

Washington has repeatedly sought to extend an olive branch to Caracas, even before Chavez's death from cancer in early March.

And it has long hoped that a post-Chavez era could herald a new era in ties, although initial signs from new President Nicolas Maduro -- Chavez's anointed heir -- were not good.

Auction houses come in for a handbagging



PARIS (AFP) - Two rival auction houses have clashed over which one may have set the record for the sale of a crocodile-skin Birkin handbag by the luxury goods firm Hermes.

Paris auction house Artcurial said last month it had sold a red, orange and pink coloured bag, named after the British-born French actress and singer Jane Birkin, for a record \$82,600 (63,800 euros) on May 21. But US auctioneers Heritage Auctions disputed the record, saying they sold a red Birkin bag in the US in December 2011 for \$203,150, although the claim was quickly disputed by Artcurial which pointed out that the clasp was encrusted with a diamond, meaning it was not a like with like comparison.

Heritage countered that it had also sold a grey Birkin bag in April with a "palladium" clasp for \$86,500 and others with unspecified variations for \$113,525, \$104,500 and \$95,600.

Perhaps the record was in fact set by another bag sold in 2007, according to media reports, for \$96,723.

But that too had a distinguishing feature -- it was owned by Jane Birkin.

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Caribbean Festival celebrates 2nd Anniversary

It seems like only yesterday that the Honorable Minister Otmar Oduber of Tourism, Transportation and Labour conveyed his vision of delivering an enlightened festival venue and cultural - and-dining experience to San Nicolas. Many appreciated his vision and wished him well, but were afraid the energy, work, and resources he would pour into this vision would go unrewarded. Thankfully, he was right.

Though it encountered



some glitches, The Caribbean Festival caught on, winning the hearts of thousands of tourist and locals alike as a destination festival and has gone on to serve as a catalyst for further developments and upgrades in the downtown San Nicolas area. The suc-

cess of Caribbean, as the locals refer to the festival, has allowed the opening of a Tourist Information Office and a Museum of Antiquities contributing to the beautification process of the downtown area of San Nicolas.

The 2013 edition of Carub-

bian will be greater as it celebrates its 2nd anniversary!

Please make plans in joining us today and share in some wonderful fellowship and good fun! Whether it's a local dish or a regional delight as a festival-goer you will have choices to satisfy almost any taste bud. Fresh blended smoothies, soft drinks, beer compliment a wide variety of food throughout MAIN STREET.

For this special occasion we will be transforming a section of B v/d Veen Zep-

penveld straat (in front of the post office and bus terminal) into the Caribbean Festival Avenue. Arts & Crafts, Food Court, 3 sound stages, 4 bands, 1 brass band, and famous local produce market.

The festival takes place from 6pm - 10pm, and is perfectly suitable for the entire family. So, purchase your Caribbean package at a De Palm Tours activity desk (see ad) and journey to San Nicolas for food, music, arts & craft, local produce, drinks, live music and a great time.



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Europe floods force tens of thousands from their homes



Residents evacuate

DRESDEN, Germany (AFP) - Central Europe's worst floods in over a decade claimed a 13th victim Wednesday as torrents of muddy water surged down swollen rivers through the Czech Republic and Germany, flooding villages, threatening cities and forcing mass evacuations.

The huge volumes of water from heavy spring rains coming down the mighty Danube and Elbe river systems also sparked mass mobilisations in Austria and threatened future inundations as far away as Budapest.

The floods, which earlier killed eight people in the Czech Republic, two people in Austria and one in Switzerland, claimed their first victim in Slovakia when a body was found in the Danube close to the Gabčíkovo dam in the country's south.

Eastern Germany, where vast areas are already under water, braced for worse to come after the Elbe rose above eight metres (26 feet), six metres higher than usual, with the crest yet to arrive.

About 40,000 firefighters, thousands of volunteers and 5,000 troops, including hundreds of French and Dutch soldiers, have struggled to prevent major disaster, as eight cities and districts declared states of emergency.

"We have to expect the very worst," warned Till Backhaus, environment minister of northeastern Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania state.

"We have to be ready for a highly difficult and complex

situation," he was quoted as saying by news agency DPA.

The biggest fears were centred on Halle in Saxony-Anhalt state, where Elbe tributary the Saale reached its highest level in 400 years and started soaking through dykes, damaging a 200-metre section.

Authorities used loudspeakers as they told 30,000 people to evacuate. A metre of water covered the centre of the city that is the birthplace of baroque composer George Frideric Handel.

The widespread floods, which have turned villages into islands, are the worst since 2002. Homes, businesses and crops have been destroyed, road and rail links severed and vast areas left without power and drinking water.

The inundations have impacted business, with luxury automaker Porsche saying it will temporarily shutter its Leipzig plant Thursday because of a shortage of parts from Slovakia.

In the Czech Republic some villages can only be reached by boat and over 19,000 people have been evacuated.

In Germany -- where, ironically, the skies were clear after weeks of frequent rain -- defences were strengthened around Dresden which was already badly hit by floods 11 years ago.

"The flood preparations since the 'century floods' of 2002 are working," said city spokesman Kai Schulz. "Still, areas to the east of the city are under water. In the past 48 hours alone, more than 1,000 people were evacuated, and there will be more."

US drops plan to allow pocket knives on flights

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Transportation Security Administration (TSA), bowing to a chorus of outrage led by flight attendants, abandoned Wednesday its plan to allow pocket knives in carry-on baggage.

In a statement, the TSA said it would "continue to enforce the current prohibited items list" that also includes golf clubs, lacrosse sticks, ski poles, billiard cues and some baseball bats.

"We will continue to take steps to improve our ever evolving security posture while also improving the experience of the traveling public," added the federal government agency.

Flight attendants in particular reacted with anger when TSA chief John Pistole proposed in March that pocket knives and some sporting goods should be allowed into airline cabins.

Doing so would enable

TSA screeners at airports all over the United States to focus more on explosives. It would also have put the United States in line with European Union rules that allow short-blade knives in cabin baggage.

The Coalition of Flight Attendant Unions cheered Wednesday's decision, recalling how the 9/11 hijackers had used box cutters to commandeer the airliners used to attack the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.



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International News

Court orders partial pay-back for Dutch cannabis cafes

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Cannabis cafes in the southern Netherlands must be partially compensated for losses after the introduction of a controversial marijuana law last year to register local smokers and ban sales to foreigners, a Dutch court ruled Wednesday.

The so-called "cannabis card" law was introduced on May 1 last year in three southern provinces and effectively aimed at transforming coffee shops into private clubs, requiring them to only sell cannabis to registered members who are Dutch residents and to stop all sales to foreigners.

The law's introduction aimed at addressing the downsides of drug tourism -- traffic jams, street dealing and rowdy late-night partying.

"Part of the cannabis card law has disproportionately infringed the interests of coffee shop clients, leading to financial losses during several months," The Hague District Court ruled on Wednesday.

The court however upheld the sales ban to foreigners and said if that part of the law was simply applied it would have had the desired effect in bringing down problems associated with cross-border drug tourism

in the southern Netherlands.

The Dutch association of retail cannabis traders and a number of coffee shops took the government to court in September last year to ask judges to declare the ban on cannabis sales to foreigners illegal, association spokesman Michael Veling told AFP.

A new, more leftwing government in November shelved the cannabis-card law, but said that individual city authorities could still decide whether to apply the law affecting some 650 establishments nationwide, according to their economic or social priorities.

Most Dutch cities, including Amsterdam, said they did not want to apply the law, while Maastricht and other southern cities said they would do so, leading to a stand-off between coffee shops and local authorities.

Dutch Justice Minister Ivo Opstelten said the State would appeal Wednesday's judgement, Dutch news agency ANP reported.

Although cannabis is technically illegal in the Netherlands, the country in 1976 decriminalised possession of less than five grammes (around a sixth of an ounce) of the substance.



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Indian police hunt truckers over US tourist gang-rape

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Indian police investigating the gang-rape of a US tourist by a group of truckers said Wednesday they had identified the type of vehicle used in the attack and collected forensic evidence.

The 30-year-old American hitched a lift in a truck Monday night in Manali, a tourist destination in the foothills of the Himalayas, after struggling to find a taxi to return to her hotel.

The driver and two accomplices then abducted her and took her to a secluded spot where they raped her for over an hour, she told police.

The incident follows the alleged rape of a 21-year-old Irish charity worker in the eastern city of Kolkata at the weekend and comes as India tries to fight widespread sex crime with tougher laws.

Mexico authorities involved in disappearances: Amnesty

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Authorities have been implicated in some of the thousands of disappearances across Mexico in the past six years, Amnesty International said Tuesday.

The London-based rights watchdog urged President Enrique Pena Nieto to investigate and bring those responsible to justice.

Many abductions are perpetrated by organized crime figures but a significant number of state actors are behind other abductions and killings, the group said in a new report.

Since 2010, Amnesty has documented 152 cases of people disappearing in seven of Mexico's 32 states, in at least 85 of which there is evidence that government authorities were involved, the report said.

Pena Nieto, who took office in December, has said that, nationwide, 26,131 people went missing between 2006-2012 amid spiraling drug cartel violence.

lence.

The government, however, has also said that number should be revised downward because some people emigrated or willingly cut ties with friends and family.

More than 70,000 people were killed in six years of drug-related violence after ex-president Felipe Calderon launched an all-out war against the nation's drug gangs upon taking office in December 2006, according to government data.





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Health & Living

US experts review heart attack risk of diabetes drug

WASHINGTON (AFP) - GlaxoSmithKline's controversial diabetes drug Avandia, restricted in the US and banned in Europe over concerns it raises heart attack risk, is getting a second look this week by US medical experts.

An independent advisory panel to the US Food and Drug Administration began two days of meetings Wednesday to decide whether to urge regulators to keep restrictions on the drug, or to allow the drug to be more widely available.

Once a blockbuster drug for patients with type 2 diabetes, Avandia was approved in 1999 and soared to sales of three billion dollars per year, but its use has declined dramatically in recent years.

The experts convened by the

FDA are debating a new review of the GSK trial called RECORD, which confirmed the company's initial finding that Avandia does not raise cardiac risk any more than other diabetes drugs on the market.

The British pharma giant GSK recently paid researchers at Duke University in North Carolina to carry out this new analysis of the data.

FDA experts said this week on the agency's web site that the Duke review was "rigorous" and "overall... supports the previous observation that, in this trial, rosiglitazone was not associated with increased all-cause mortality or increased cardiovascular mortality," referring to the active ingredient in Avandia.

However, other research has pointed to a rise in heart attack

and stroke among patients using Avandia to control their blood sugar, and some critics have said the RECORD trial - which showed it was safe -- was actually flawed.

The controversy over Avandia erupted after a 2007 study in the New England Journal of Medicine found that it raised the risk of heart attack by 43 percent.

The lead author of that study, Steven Nissen de la Cleveland Clinic, has been outspoken against Avandia and told the Wall Street Journal this week that RECORD was "not conducted in a scientifically acceptable manner."

He also said that his request to be part of the committee of experts reviewing the data was denied by the FDA.

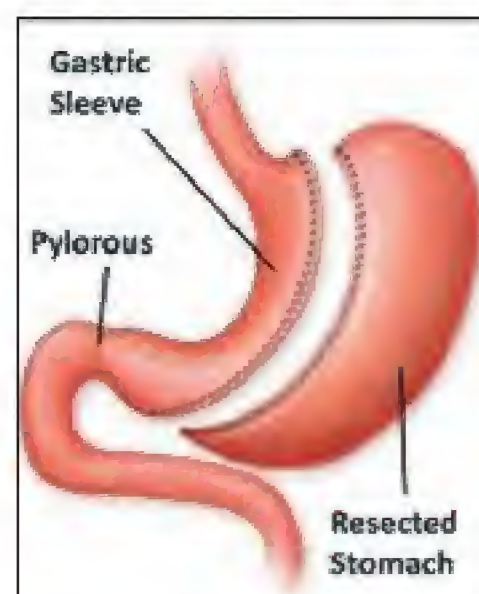
More proof needed for weight-loss surgery: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A gastric bypass or other type of weight-loss surgery can help diabetics who are moderately obese but more proof is needed before promoting them on a wider scale, a study said Tuesday.

"Bariatric surgery for diabetic people who are not severely obese has shown promising results in controlling glucose," said Melinda Maggard-Gibbons, the study's lead author and a surgeon at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"However, we need more information about the long-term benefits and risks before recommending bariatric surgery over nonsurgical weight-loss treatment for these individuals."

The study, published in the



Journal of the American Medical Association, is based on a review of evidence supporting the use of bariatric surgery to treat people who are diabetic and who have a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 to 35 -- considered on the low end of the obesity spectrum.

It found that diabetics with

moderate obesity lost more weight and had better glucose control over two years if they got such surgery rather than opting for non-surgical treatment like dieting and drugs.

Patients who had a gastric bypass saw better results -- more short term weight loss and better control of blood sugar levels -- than those who underwent gastric banding.

But the researchers said the findings stem from a relatively small number of trials and that more studies are needed -- including on how patients did after two or more years, as well as complication rates and side effects.

The US Food and Drug Administration has approved gastric banding for people with a BMI of 30 to 35 who have an illness linked to obesity.

Scientists see Achilles heel for childhood malaria



PARIS (AFP) - European researchers on Wednesday said they had identified how the malaria parasite sticks to blood vessels, a finding that opens up new targets for drugs to protect children who are the biggest victims of the disease.

Plasmodium falciparum, the deadliest malaria parasite, grows in red blood cells.

It adheres to the wall of blood vessels to avoid being swept by the bloodstream down to the spleen, where it would otherwise be destroyed.

The binding trick has been known for more than a century, but how it is done has remained unclear.

A first insight came last year, when a lab team pointed the finger at a protein on the parasite called PfEMP1.

A team led by Louise Turner at the University of Copenhagen screened 2,500 profiles, but only one provided a fit: a receptor called endothelial protein C, or EPCR.

To check whether the hunch was right, the researchers looked at parasites taken from 15 children in Tanzania who had fallen ill with severe malaria, and confirmed the association with EPCR.

The new findings will help pharmaceutical engineers target the parasite's binding mechanism, said Matthew Higgins of Oxford University.

In 2010, an estimated 219 million people were infected with the disease and some 660,000 died, most of them African children aged under five, the UN's World Health Organisation (WHO) said last December.

A study published in the Lancet in February 2012 said the global death toll was likely to be around 1.2 million a year.



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Sci-Tech

Yahoo! revamps search page design



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Yahoo! unveiled a new search page design Wednesday as part of the struggling Internet pioneer's effort to ramp up competition with Google.

"Whether you're searching for that perfect summer vacation spot or a nearby Ethiopian restaurant, finding what you're looking for should be fast and easy," Yahoo! Search vice president Laurie Mann said in a blog post.

Mann said the new design places search results higher on the page and includes "some under-the-hood performance improvements," which will mean faster page loads.

"We're also introducing a new navigation bar at the top of the page so you can easily browse other Yahoo! sites. Over time, we'll be rolling out the navigation bar across more Yahoo! properties."

A survey by comScore

found Google held a 66.5 percent market share, followed by Microsoft with 17.3 percent and Yahoo! with 12.0 percent in April.

Yahoo! inked a 10-year alliance with Microsoft in 2009 to have Bing handle the heavy lifting of mining and indexing the vast array of online data, leaving the California-based firm to customize results for users.

Yahoo!, which is struggling to reinvent itself after being eclipsed as the ruling Internet search platform, named former Google executive Marissa Mayer as its chief executive last July.

Mayer managed some of Google's most successful innovations and influenced an array of the company's most recognized features, such as its globally popular search engine and uncluttered home page.

Mind-controlled games on show at Asia's biggest IT fair



TAIPEI (AFP) - Finger fatigue after hours of video gaming may become a thing of the past, as firms unveil headsets that measures users' brainwaves and allow them to inter-

act with apps installed in computers.

The new technology is part of a wider exhibition of wearable computing, the next great frontier in consumer electron-

ics, on display at Taipei's Computex trade fair.

At the show on Wednesday US chip company NeuroSky promoted its new product MindWave Mobile -- a brain-computer interface which allows headset-wearing users to interact with apps in computers and other devices without lifting a finger.

Wearing a MindWave headset, a member of staff demonstrated how to pilot a toy helicopter using just his thoughts.

Chips inside the headset measure brainwave signals and transfer data via Bluetooth to wirelessly communicate with users' computers or mobile devices, explained Giant Lin, a representative of NeuroSky's Taiwan branch.

The Silicon Valley-based company has been targeting its technology at brain training games and educational apps.

Mindwave technology has already been taken up by several schools in Malaysia and Singapore, said Lin, in programmes designed to help students improve their concentration.

The firm is now looking for new partners to develop other applications which could use the chips, said Lin.

More than 1,700 exhibitors are displaying their latest products at 5,000 booths in Computex Taipei, drawing an estimated 130,000 visitors, including 36,000 visitors from abroad, the organisers said.

Monsanto testing new GMO wheat

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US agriculture giant Monsanto, in the spotlight over the discovery of unauthorized genetically modified wheat growing in Oregon, said Wednesday it has a new GM wheat strain under development.

The company is developing a new form of Roundup Ready wheat, resistant to Monsanto's herbicide Roundup (glyphosate) and also focused on improving yield, Robb Fraley, the firm's chief technology officer, said in a conference call with reporters.

Claire Cajacob, head of Monsanto's wheat research, said the company was testing a genetically modified, or genetically engineered, spring wheat in North Dakota, adding that field tests started in 2011.

Monsanto stopped testing its original Roundup Ready wheat strain in 2005 amid market concerns about the acceptance of GM products.

But it pushed back into the field in 2009, resuming work on wheat with the purchase of WestBred, a biotech wheat developer.

Monsanto's original Roundup Ready GM wheat strain, though approved as safe by the Food and Drug Administration, was not authorized for commercial use at the time Monsanto ended the tests.

But the US Department of Agriculture announced a week ago that it was found growing in an Oregon field by a farmer.

That rattled export markets sensitive to genetically modified organisms, and Japan suspended imports of some US wheat, as did South Korean millers. In Europe meanwhile officials said they would check US imports for signs of the GM wheat.

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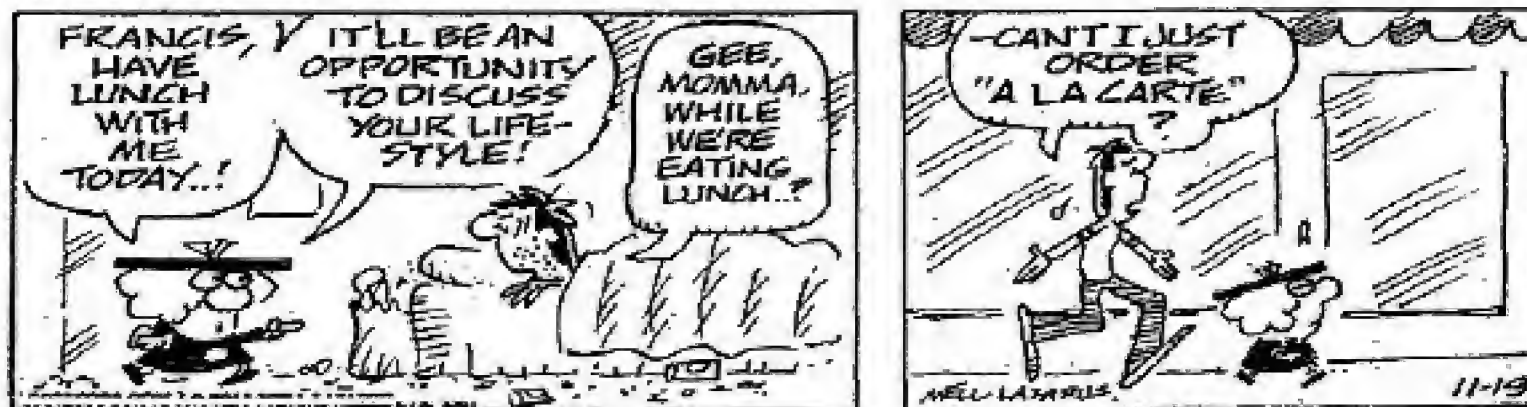
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COMICS

PICKLES



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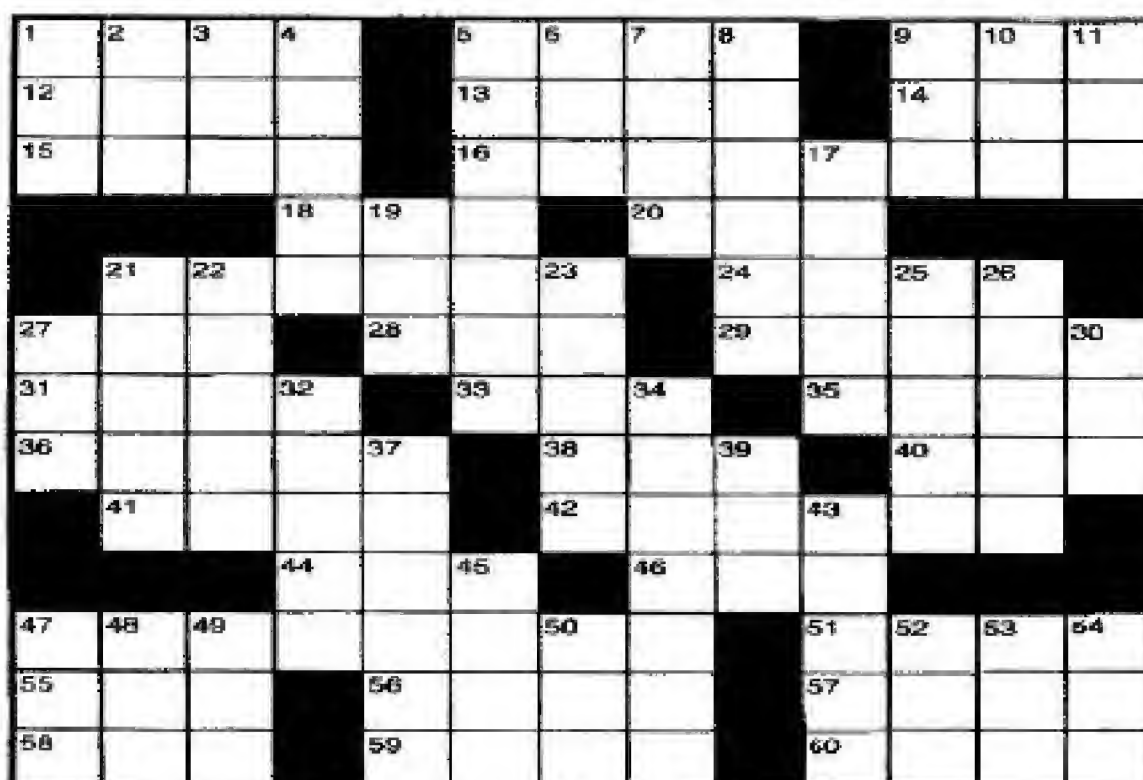
1. Bird beaks
5. Actress Gilbert ("The Class")
9. Like Carroll's Hatter
12. Photog-rapher's purchase
13. Lobster limb
14. Bridge action
15. Word on a diet-food package
16. Spree
18. Swiss peak
20. Piece (out)
21. Gem weights

24. Western lawman Wyatt
27. Uppermost part
28. Enthusiasm
29. Shovel
31. "Life _____ Father"
33. A Reiner
35. TV emcee
36. Those opposed
38. Large coffeepot
40. Subway stop (abbr.)
41. Categorize
42. Seer's cards
44. One (Ger.)
46. "_____ a Rock" (2 wds.)
47. Rent collector
51. _____-seven

DOWN

1. Football league letters
2. Clockface numeral
3. Lunch counter letters
4. Blur
5. Sovereign's baton
6. Capone and Gore
7. Human _____
8. Rouses from sleep
9. Business-

- person's deg.
10. Give help
11. '50s initials
17. Fruit like a nectarine, but fuzzy
19. Track unit
21. Change purse's contents
22. Tending toward (2 wds.)
23. Teapot part
25. Rule the _____
26. Columns
27. Former airline
30. Bake sale gp.
32. Took on
34. Created cornrows
37. Moonshiners' set-ups
39. '30s relief agency (abbr.)
43. Foretokens
45. Secluded spot
47. Mauna _____
48. Noah's transport
49. Basketball org
50. Hank Aaron's leading stat
52. Altar promise
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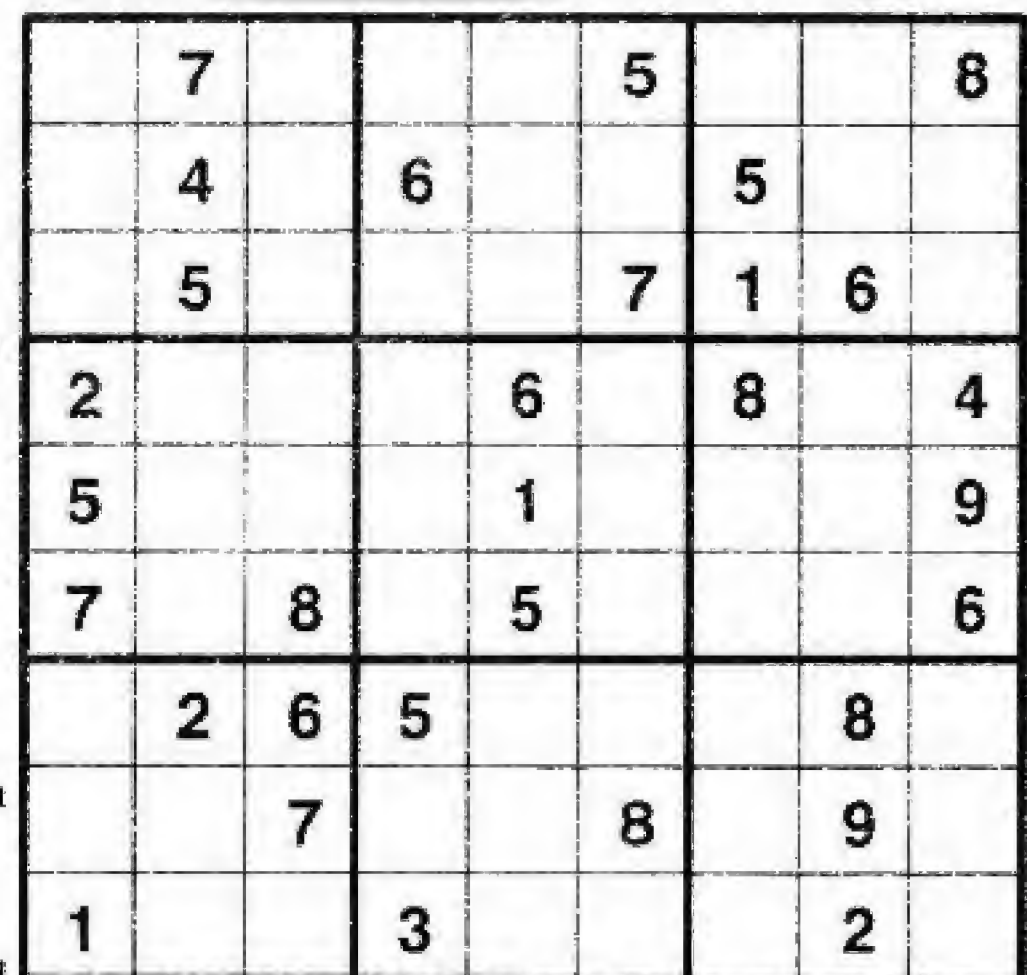
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5	6	9	8	2	1	4	7	3
1	8	3	7	4	5	9	2	6
9	1	2	5	6	7	8	3	4
8	4	2	1	9	7	5	6	3
7	5	8	6	9	2	1	4	3
2	9	1	4	7	8	3	5	6
3	2	5	1	9	6	7	4	8
8	7	6	9	3	1	2	4	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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FINANCE

Fed Beige Book: US growth 'modest to moderate'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Federal Reserve's regional survey Wednesday painted a picture of a US economy still putting along at the same pace of the past year, with jobs growing slowly and no threat of inflation.

The Beige Book update on activity in the 12 Fed districts -- a key input into monetary policy decisions -- said the economy continues to grow at a "modest to moderate" speed, with conditions slowly but steadily improving in the six weeks since the previous report.

Helped by the surge in home building, manufacturing as well as services continued to expand across the country -- contradicting some recent data suggesting that the manufacturing sector was contracting.

Consumer spending growth was mostly slow, and bank lending continued to rise.

Prices remained restrained while hiring "increased at a measured pace in several districts," the report said. Wage pressures "remained contained overall" despite rises in certain jobs.

Analysts said the Fed's tweak of its overall description of activity to "modest to mod-

erate" from "moderate" in the April Beige book amounted to a subtle downgrade of its view.

But the details in the report suggested that economic growth had not changed significantly from the 2.4 percent pace of the first quarter.

That gives little impetus to the Fed's policy board, the Federal Open Market Committee, to immediately begin tailing back its quantitative-easing bond purchases at its next meeting on June 18-19.

India's drugs giant Ranbaxy hit with fraud suit

NEW DELHI (AFP) - More potential trouble loomed for Ranbaxy after a public interest suit was filed in India's top court Wednesday seeking cancellation of the generics giant's licence over a tainted drugs scandal.

New Delhi-based Ranbaxy has insisted its drugs are safe after it agreed last month in US court to pay a \$500 million settlement over the adulterated medicines it made at two Indian plants in Japan.

A Ranbaxy spokesman told AFP the company had received no documents regarding the case and could not comment.

The suit, filed by Supreme Court lawyer Manohar Lal Sharma, argues that making and selling adulterated drugs is a "heinous crime" and "amounts to committing murder" and that someone who knowingly does so is liable to be prosecuted under the Indian Penal Code.

The petitioner, who in the past has filed a string of suits that he has said are aimed at protecting the interests of the public at large, has also sought

WASHINGTON (AFP) - China and India on Wednesday were again exempted from US sanctions aimed at choking off Iran's oil exports after significantly cutting back on purchases of crude from the Islamic republic.

"The United States and the international community stand shoulder to shoulder in maintaining pressure on the Iranian regime until it fully addresses concerns about its nuclear program," US Secretary of State John Kerry said.

He said in a statement that

Beijing and New Delhi were among 20 countries which "have again qualified for an exception to sanctions" due to "significant reductions in the volume of their crude oil purchases from Iran or for reducing those purchases to zero and remaining there."

Other countries also granted exemptions from any sanctions were Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Taiwan, with the rest coming from Europe.

The US administration ruled that the economies concerned had taken steps to reduce imports of Iranian oil, so their financial institutions would not face measures under US law aimed at curbing Tehran's nuclear program.

Under US sanctions legislation the administration is bound by law to reconfirm the exemptions every six months.

"The message to the Iranian regime from the international community is clear: take concrete actions to sat-

isfy the concerns of the international community, or face increasing isolation and pressure," Kerry said.

Under a 2011 law approved last year, the United States threatened to penalize foreign financial institutions over transactions with Iran's central bank, which handles sales of the country's key export.

There have been 10 failed meetings between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran over the past 13 months, as negotiators aim to get Tehran to rein in its suspect nuclear program.

On Wednesday the six world powers engaged in the stalled talks said it was "essential and urgent for Iran to engage with the agency on the substance of its concerns."

Western countries and Israel have accused Iran of seeking to develop atomic weapons, while Tehran insists its nuclear program is entirely peaceful.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

AFB PUSH NUT
 ROE OKAY CITE
 CONCLUDE ABED
 AOL NFL
 REN EPAULET
 TEXTILE SARAN
 VET NEAPS RUE
 ADORN RAYMOND
 SLEEKLY ART
 SRI MOI
 WINE CLEANEST
 KNOT KENTY NRA
 SAW SITS EAR

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Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
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U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.74
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.78
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	189.47
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	235.07
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.52
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	31.78
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	31.16
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Paris Jackson in hospital after suicide bid: TMZ



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Michael Jackson's daughter Paris was rushed to a California hospital early Wednesday after a possible suicide attempt, celebrity news website TMZ reported.

A sheriff's spokesman told AFP officers had responded to a home in Calabasas near Los Angeles, where Jackson lives, over a "medical situation," but refused to confirm the identity of the person taken to hospital.

The 15-year-old had tweeted a few times late Tuesday, including: "yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away now it looks as though they're here to stay" and "i wonder why tears are salty?"

TMZ cited unidentified sources as saying it was a suicide attempt, explaining she was taken out of her Calabasas family house on a stretcher, after a 911 call reporting a possible drug overdose.

A source connected to the

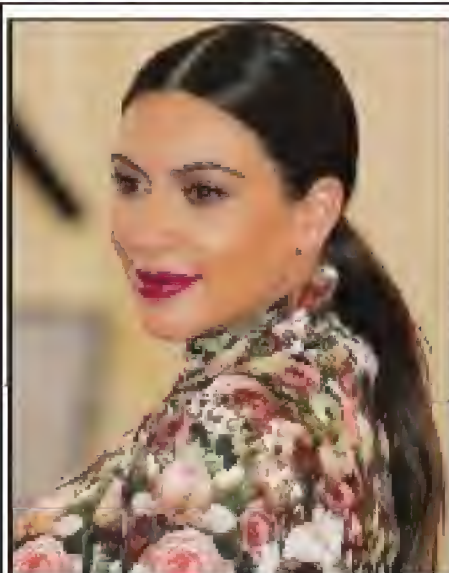
emergency response told TMZ there were multiple cuts on her wrists. She was "doing OK" in hospital later Wednesday, the celebrity news service said.

A source close to Paris told TMZ -- which famously broke the news of Michael Jackson's death in June 2009 -- that she has "tried this in the past."

"This was far more serious. It was not a cry for help," said the source.

Paris -- Jackson's middle child, along with older sibling Prince and younger brother "Blanket" -- has made a start in the entertainment industry, starring in a film "London's Bridge and the Three Keys," in development.

Her grandmother Katherine is currently in court in Los Angeles, suing the promoters of Jackson's last doomed tour for negligently hiring doctor Conrad Murray, who was convicted in 2011 of involuntary manslaughter over his death.



LOS ANGELES - Kim Kardashian's and Kris Humphries officially became divorced this week -- 20 months after she filed papers to end their 72-day marriage.

Los Angeles County Superior Court confirmed to CNN on Tuesday that the divorce became final Monday.

This simplifies life for Kardashian, 32, as she is close to giving birth to a daughter, fathered by new boyfriend Kanye West.

The due date has not been made public, although she did reveal the baby's gender this week (a girl) on her reality show "Keeping Up with the Kardashians."

Humphries, an NBA forward, accused Kardashian of fraud by entering the marriage only to make millions of dollars with their wedding, Humphries' lawyer, Marshall Waller, told Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Stephen Moloney last year.

Michael Douglas stands firm in cancer cause row

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Michael Douglas said he would win a Nobel prize if he knew exactly what caused his throat cancer, in fresh comments Tuesday after a dispute with a British newspaper over an interview he gave.

The "Fatal Attraction" star, whose spokesman already denied he blamed his throat cancer specifically on oral sex, also said that, regardless, he was happy to raise awareness about causes of the killer disease.

In an interview with Britain's Guardian newspaper, Douglas, who stars in the just-released biopic of flamboyant entertainer Liberace, "Behind The Candelabra," said his cancer was caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV).

"Without wanting to get too specific, this particular cancer is caused by HPV, which actually comes about from cunnilingus," he said, in comments the newspaper said

amounted to blaming oral sex for his cancer.

Douglas's spokesman Allen Burry said Monday that the 68-year-old actor was talking in

On Tuesday, Douglas himself added: "Head and neck cancer can be caused by many things including HPV virus, smoking, alcohol, drug abuse, genes, environment and stress. I do not know what caused my particular cancer."

The British newspaper stuck to its guns over the issue, posted an audio clip of the interview on its website and insisted that Douglas had been referring to his own cancer being caused by cunnilingus.

"The Guardian firmly denies this charge of misrepresentation. Mr Burry was not present at the (interview); the only two people present were Mr Douglas and the Guardian writer, Xan Brooks," the paper noted online.



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La Linda Department Store-where Aruba shops!



Calman and Anna Hochman

--Though Aruba has its share of designer brand stores and shopping malls, ask almost any islander where they shop, and they will likely tell you "La Linda." Spread out over several specialty stores on the Caya Betico Croes, La Linda was Aruba's first and foremost department stores, where, for decades, one could find anything and everything, and after more than 70 years, still can make that claim.

It is also a distinctly family operation, with the personal touch and supervision of the Hochmans, who take their reputation for stocking "the best quality for the best price" very se-

riously. It all started with Calman Hochman, a Jewish Polish immigrant who opened his first small shop with his Aruban wife Anna, carrying "a little bit of everything that anyone could need." This was before WWII, when the present head of the company, Jaime, hadn't even been born yet. Many of their sales help have also been with the store for over two decades, and "it is very much like family here," he admits. Their loyal patrons also look forward to being helped by shop girls who have become friends, knowing they will get great and honest service.

To this day, La Linda is particularly known for its huge fabrics and notions department, the first destination for many on an island where making your own clothes is still an everyday practice. Without question, the store offers the greatest diversity of selection in nearly every department, and they have now consolidated them all into one store; four floors containing a wealth of choices in clothing for men, women and children, house wares, bedding, sporting goods, luggage, shoes, jewelry, decorative items and more.

"The present store is a work in progress," asserts Jaime, as they continue to renovate and enlarge what had been only the men's store and warehouse in the past. Normally closed for a 2 hour lunch/siesta in the old island way, shoppers will soon find it open daily for the entire day, from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, as they are on Saturday's, with a bright, charming eatery installed on the top floor.

from all over the world, always with an eye towards quality. They pay particular attention to their Women's Department specializing in over-sized garments, stocking larger sizes exhibiting distinctive dash and style.

For travelers who have perhaps lost their luggage, they can offer a quick fix for all the family which won't break your budget, including some very stylish new suitcases.



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A visit to La Linda and perusal of their interesting collection will make anyone understand why it has remained successful all these decades, and is still Aruba's favorite place to shop!

Buster's is back in Eagle Beach at Trop Casino



The home of the Beer Pong drinking game

Fans of Aruba's favorite sports bar are happy to hear that Buster's Garage has relocated to the restaurant/bar space inside Trop Casino. Now Eagle Beach resort guests have a great place for a bargain-priced breakfast or a bucket of beer while rooting for the team of their choice.

Buster's has that great,

homey feel of settling in to enjoy a game with buddies, greatly due to the warmth and enthusiasm of owner Rusty. He takes pride in making patrons feel welcome. "If somebody really needs to watch their home team on the field, we'll be happy to put it on for them," he confidently assured us. "We have 3 satellite dishes

with separate packages to pick up every station imaginable. If there is a game going on out there somewhere, we'll find it."

With giant screens everywhere throughout the joint, there isn't a bad seat in the house. Aside from their all day menu of game-watching favorites, they also feature a



A whopping cheese nachos w/chicken dish



Threesome, takes care of the entertainment

hearty breakfast menu. The "Grand Slam Platter" includes eggs any style, pancakes or waffles, bacon, juice, fresh made home fries with coffee or tea for only \$9. Lunch and dinner menus reflect the same moderate pricing with required sports bar standards such as chicken wings, club sandwiches, burgers and a heaping helping of nachos, averaging \$9; pizza and main courses range from \$11 to \$15.

Aside from the games and the gambling, patrons can expect great entertainment three

nights weekly with one of Aruba's most popular trios, "Threesome." There are also some wild times getting acquainted with Rusty's Beer Pong, the Drinking Game of Champions. Win or lose, players always end up with a smile on their face.

This family friendly place, with air hockey and video games for the kids, along with a special menu for young ones, is open 7 days a week from 7:30 AM until 1:00 AM for late night snacking and fun.

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NBA: LeBron needs no extra inspiration against Spurs

MIAMI (AFP) - Defending his first NBA title is motivation enough for superstar LeBron James when the Miami Heat face the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA Finals.

"I've lost enough," James said Wednesday. "I don't need any more fuel from losing in the finals. I've lost two finals."

The Heat and Spurs begin their best-of-seven championship series today at Miami with the hosts trying to add to their title haul from 2006 and 2012 and San Antonio trying to add a fifth crown to those in 1999, 2003, 2005 and 2007.

"I'm ready to play now," James said.

"King" James, who won his fourth NBA Most Valuable Player award this season, lost to Dallas in the 2011 finals in his first season at Miami and was swept by San Antonio in 2007 in his first NBA Finals when he played for Cleveland.

"We ran into a team that was just better," James said. "They took advantage of every miscue we made on the floor. It was obvious. They were a better team, more experienced."

So is this a chance for pay-back six years later?

"It's a great opportunity," James said. "I look forward to the challenge once again."

James averaged 28.6 points, 10.2 rebounds and 7.4 assists a game against the Spurs in a losing cause in those finals, but says he is a better player now.

"Just smarter, a lot smarter, a lot more experienced on and off the floor," James said. "I've matured on and off the floor."

James has averaged 26.2 points, 7.3 rebounds and 6.4 assists in this year's playoffs and his leadership and versatility have been bigger parts of



Miami's attack than two years ago, Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

"He has held so much more responsibility for us now than he ever did before," Spoelstra said. "We've all grown. Looking at our game from two years ago, it's like looking at a different basketball team."

Since James arrived, the Heat have been expected to deliver titles and they have not failed to reach the finals, but the 2011 loss to Dallas still stings.

"We've been through a great deal," Spoelstra said. "When you go through a collective massive failure like we did two years ago it can rip your team about or bring your team together."

A key for Miami will be top-level play from Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh, who struggled at times against Indiana in the Eastern Conference final.

"Hopefully we can get them activated to their normal comfort level," said Spoelstra. "As long as they are aggressive and attacking within what we do, I think that's the key."

But, he adds, James figures to play every position on the court at some stage against the Spurs during the series.

"He will be on every single one of those players at some point," Spoelstra said. "Then we will see where we need to put him to make it work."

Spoelstra had praise for Spurs guard Tony Parker, the Frenchman whose playmaking has sparked San Antonio so far.

"He was the best player in the western conference playoffs each game and we're well aware of that," Spoelstra said. "He was driving their success. He's an MVP candidate and he has had an excellent series so far."

"They have Hall of Famers and a well-oiled system. He creates so much offense for them. He's their engine and he's tireless. We just have to wear on him. Our defense will be tested but we trust it. We will throw different bodies on him and hopefully that will wear on him."

James praised Spurs veteran big man Tim Duncan, who at the age of 37 is seeking his fifth NBA crown.

SPORTS

Football: Mexicans edge Jamaica, grab WC2014 qualifying lead



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Mexico will try to build on Tuesday's 1-0 victory at Jamaica when they visit Panama on Friday, while the Reggae Boyz attempt to bounce back against the United States in CONCACAF 2014 World Cup qualifying.

Mexico's narrow win at Kingston, courtesy of Aldo de Nigris's 48th-minute header, was the country's first after three draws in the hexagonal final round of World Cup qualifying for North and Central America and the Caribbean.

It moved Mexico at least briefly to the top of the table with six points from four matches.

Panama are one point back with the United States, Costa Rica and Honduras two adrift -- all four with a match in hand.

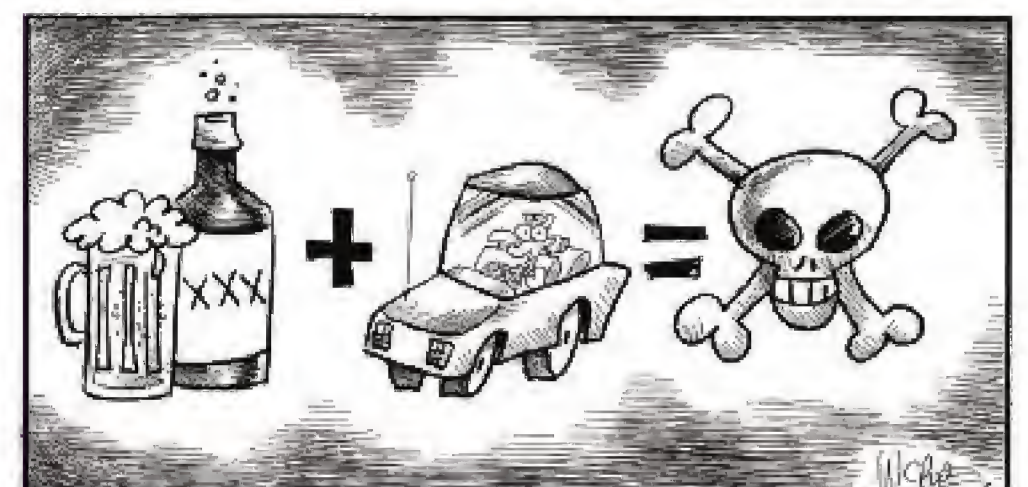
On Friday, Costa Rica host Honduras, while Jamaica, with two points from four matches, have the unenviable task of trying to turn around their fortunes when they host a US side buoyed by a friendly victory over Germany on Sunday.

NHL: Kings win to trim Chicago's playoff lead



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Jonathan Quick made 19 saves and the defending National Hockey League champion Los Angeles Kings defeated Chicago 3-1 on Tuesday, trimming the Blackhawks' lead in their playoff series to 2-1.

The Kings will try to equalize the best-of-seven Western Conference final at two wins each by capturing game four today before the series shifts back to Chicago. The winner plays either Boston or Pittsburgh for the Stanley Cup.



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Baseball: Players await possible huge bans in doping probe

NEW YORK (AFP) - Major League Baseball players at the heart of a doping probe proclaimed innocence and adopted a wait-and-see attitude after a report that suspensions would be sought for about 20 players.

ESPN reported that a major league investigation was set to have cooperation from Anthony Bosch, the founder of a Miami-area clinic that allegedly supplied several stars with steroids and other performance-enhancing substances.

Injured New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez and Milwaukee Brewers slugger Ryan Braun are among those who



file photo: Alex Rodriguez

could face 100-game suspensions, according to the ESPN report.

Braun denied any wrongdoing while Toronto's Melky Cabrera and Texas' Nelson Cruz were among those wait-

run king Barry Bonds and legendary pitcher Roger Clemens.

But the latest group would also follow into the hall of shame of dope cheats such as cyclists Lance Armstrong and Floyd Landis and a host of athletics performers led by Canada's Ben Johnson and Americans Marion Jones and Tim Montgomery.

Major League Baseball's investigation of the Miami clinic Biogenesis, first exposed in a Miami New Times article last January, had uncovered paperwork that appeared to be records of sales to major league players.

But authorities needed Bosch's confirmation of details to have enough evidence to impose doping bans.

Braun, who won an appeal for elevated testosterone levels two years ago when an arbitrator ruled his urine sample had not been handled properly, had nothing new to say on the scandal after Milwaukee's victory over Oakland on Tuesday.

"I've already addressed everything related to the Miami situation," Braun said. "I addressed it in spring training. I will not make any further statements about it. The truth has not changed."

In February, the 2011 National League Most Valuable Player said his attorneys used Bosch as a consultant in preparing his appeal on the

earlier doping case.

"There was a dispute over compensation for Bosch's work, which is why my lawyer and I are listed under 'moneys owed,'" Braun said in February. "I have nothing to hide and have never had any other relationship with Bosch. I will fully cooperate with any inquiry into this matter."

After Texas lost 17-5 to Boston, Cruz said, "I can't say anything. I guess it's part of the process. They're doing their job. I don't have any comment about it."

Cabrera, suspended for 50 games last year for elevated testosterone and dropped for

"Everything right now is speculation until MLB does something," Yankees outfielder Vernon Wells said. "Until something happens, there's really nothing we can say."

Other players named by ESPN as facing bans include Everth Cabrera, Francisco Cervelli, Bartolo Colon, Fautino De Los Santos, Yasmán Grandal, Fernando Martínez, Jesus Montero, Jordan Norberto, Jhonny Peralta and Cesar Puello.

The Major League Baseball Players Association would likely file grievances against any player who received a suspension as a result of the



file photo: Jhonny Peralta

the playoffs by the eventual World Series champion San Francisco Giants, told the New York Daily News he has been punished enough.

"If they suspend me again, I think that would be a harsh punishment because I already served my sentence. But it's up to them," Cabrera said. "I believe I've already served my sentence, especially missing the playoffs. That's what hurt me the most."

Three-time American League Most Valuable Player Rodriguez never tested positive for steroids, but said in 2009 that he had used performance-enhancing drugs while a member of the Texas Rangers from 2001-2003.

probe.

"The Players Association has been in regular contact with the commissioner's office regarding the Biogenesis investigation," union executive director Michael Weiner said.

"They are in the process of interviewing players and every player has been or will be represented by an attorney from the Players Association. The commissioner's office has assured us that no decisions regarding discipline have been made or will be made until those interviews are completed."

"It would be unfortunate if anyone prejudged those investigations."

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Racing: Derby winner Orb favored for Belmont Stakes



NEW YORK (AFP) - Kentucky Derby winner Orb was made the 3-1 favourite over Revolutionary and Preakness champion Oxbow on Wednesday as the draw was made for Saturday's 145th running of the \$1 million Belmont Stakes.

The 1 1/2-mile showdown of three-year-olds is the final leg in American flat racing's Triple Crown, which has not been swept by the same horse since Affirmed in 1978. Orb's bid was thwarted with a loss in last month's Preakness.

In a field of 14, Orb will start from position five while Revolutionary, the second choice among oddsmakers at 9-2 after a third-place Derby run, leaves from the ninth post and Oxbow, 5-1, leaves from the seventh gate.

"I just didn't want to get down on the inside where maybe we might get stuck around the first turn, like we sort of did in the Preakness," said Orb trainer Shug McGaughey. "I said middle, and that's pretty much the middle."

"There's going to be a bit of a pace, so he'll be able to kind of drop out of it and dictate what he wants to do. I just hope he has some place to go when the time comes."

It will be the 21st time that the Derby and Preakness winners meet in the Belmont. Derby winners have taken five such meetings with Preakness champions winning nine times and rivals taking the rest.

"With that long run and the sweeping turns we have a tendency to overanalyze the post position draw," Oxbow trainer D. Wayne Lukas said. "I'm more concerned about who is around me and what they're going to do than what gate we got."

Revolutionary trainer Todd Pletcher was happy to be outside Oxbow at the start and said the longest Triple Crown distance will suit his horse well.

"I think he will settle in the first part of the race," Pletcher said. "That's important if you're going to get the mile

and a half."

The remainder of the field in starting order from the rail with odds includes Frac Daddy at 30-1, Freedom Child at 8-1, Overanalyze at 12-1, Giant Finish at 30-1, Incognito at 20-1, Midnight Taboo at 30-1, Will Take Charge at 20-1, Vyjack at 20-1, Palace Malice at 15-1, Unlimited Budget at 8-1 and Golden Soul at 10-1.

NBA: First US steps to Rio will come at Vegas in July

LAS VEGAS (AFP) - Two-time defending Olympic champion United States will stage a mini-camp with NBA stars in July at Las Vegas in the first steps in assembling talent to seek more gold in 2016 at Rio de Janeiro.

USA Basketball announced on Wednesday the men's national team will stage workouts starting July 22 on the campus of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas culminating with an intra-squad game on July 25.

The mini-camp will feature rising young NBA standouts, NBA All-Stars and some members of last year's London Olympic championship squad, with a full roster to be announced later in June.

It will mark the seventh time in the past eight years that the Americans have trained in Las Vegas.

"Las Vegas has become home for us," said USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo. "As we begin training for

the next quad with coach Mike Krzyzewski, we look forward to again showcasing USA Basketball's talent."

The camp will mark the first look for "Coach K", who two weeks ago confirmed his return for the next four years as the US coach.

Krzyzewski, 66, is 62-1 in seven years guiding US NBA all-star squads in international events, losing only in a 2006 World Championship semi-final to Greece in Japan.



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